

Unveiling the raven

By **Corrie DiManno**
Banff Crag & Canyon

"Look at him smugly sitting up there. I swear the ravens have been talking about it," artist Lynne Huras said at the unveiling of her painting Raven #2 at the back of Town Hall on Saturday, April 20.

Expanded, mounted, and made of a weatherproof vinyl to withstand the elements, Raven #2 overlooks the back alley as the second installment of public art this year.

That's right, in the back alley.

"I know what some of you are thinking. Really? The back of Town Hall, in an alley? Where's the sculpture? And yet council could not be more pleased with the innovative and intriguing exhibit of temporal, two-dimensional public art," Mayor Karen Sorensen said to the crowd (who had to comically back up from the podium each time a car drove by). "This truly is art for the public and for the community: a work chosen by our com-

munity in a unique voting exercise, a work by a community-based artist, an installation in a busy, yet out-of-the-way public place — more frequented by our locals I would guess — and on the wall of a community facility. So, yes. Really. And bravo."

The painting was selected in March by the public after an online and ballot vote and will be on display for 18 months, then replaced with works by Roselina Hung and Jennifer Tellier.

But until then, Huras expressed her gratitude to the Town of Banff, the public art committee, and to the community for participating in the process.

"I'm extremely honoured to be the chosen artist here," she said, adding that it takes a community to build up a strong foundation for art. "I've always felt supported by the Banff community."

Huras said she first experimented painting ravens six years ago after she was commissioned to design a logo incorporating the bird. She sketched Raven #2 while it



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The Banff public art committee's Michale Lang and Mayor Karen Sorensen help local artist Lynne Huras unveil Raven #2 on the back of Town Hall on Saturday, April 20. The installation will be up for 18 months.

was sitting in a tree in the Bear Street parking lot and now, she's up to Raven #26.

"I feel like he has come back

to Bear Street to roost again and cause havoc."

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